

Message Text

SECRET

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6894

S E C R E T AMMAN 0688

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O.11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, JO, , MO, US

SUBJECT: MESSAGE TO SECRETARY AND PRESIDENT FROM KING HUSSEIN

REF: AMMAN 0687

1. KING CALLED ME TO HIS OFFICE EVENING FEB 8
(REFTEL) AND DICTATED FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO SECRETARY.

2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. SECRETARY
I HOPE, SIR, THAT YOU WILL CONVEY THE FOLLOWING
MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT WITH MY RESPECTS AND REGARDS.
I HAVE JUST RECEIVED A SPECIAL HIGH-LEVEL EMISSARY
FROM HIS MAJESTY KING HASSAN THE SECOND OF
MOROCCO, ACCOMPANIED BY THE MOROCCAN AIR FORCE
COMMANDER, THEY BROUGHT ME THE KING'S ASSESSMENT,
WITH WHICH I CONCUR, REGARDING THE REAL THREAT
WHICH THE MOROCCANS FEEL EXISTS TO THEIR COUNTRY AND
TO THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA, SURROUNDED AS THEY
ARE BY RADICAL REGIMES. I CAN ALSO APPRECIATE THE
MOROCCANS' CONCERN THAT THEIR ALGERIAN NEIGHBORS ARE
PLAYING FOR TIME DURING WHICH THEY CONTINUE TO RECEIVE
MILITARY AID AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE USSR
AND OTHERS, INCLUDING LIBYA.
IT SEEMS ALL THE MORE URGENT, WHILE WATCHING
THE ANGOLAN TRAGEDY, WHICH IS A LIVING EXAMPLE OF
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WHAT MAY HAPPEN ELSEWHERE, TO LOOK AT THE LIST OF

MILITARY EQUIPMENT MOROCCO SEEKS TO OBTAIN "HOW"
(KING ASKED THAT THIS WORD BE UNDERLINED) TO THWART A
DEVELOPING THREAT BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.
THE MORROCCAN DELEGATION ARRIVED FROM TEHRAN
WHERE HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY HAS PROVIDED ALL AVAILABLE
EQUIPMENT ON CONDITION THAT IRANIAN CONTACTS
WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT SECURE YOUR PERMISSION FOR ITS
RELEASE TO MOROCCO AND THAT SUCH EQUIPMENT WOULD
HAVE TO GO BY WAY OF JORDAN TO MOROCCO AND NOT APPEAR
TO BE PROVIDED DIRECTLY BY IRAN. WE DO NOT MIND THIS
IN THE LEAST. BUT I BELIEVE THAT MOROCCO AND IRAN
ALSO EXPECT US TO FURNISH SOME 20 F-5A AIRCRAFT
ORIGINALLY GIVEN TO US BY IRAN IN ORDER TO MAKE UP
THE MOROCCAN REQUIREMENT OF 25 AIRCRAFT.
IN THIS REGARD, WE WOULD NEED A DEFINITE COMMIT-
MENT FROM YOUR GOVERNMENT TO REPLACE THESE AIRCRAFT
WITH THE SAME TYPE AND NUMBER, OR WITH F-5E'S WHICH
ARE PREFERABLE, IN THE NEAREST POSSIBLE FUTURE, AS
THEIR LOSS WOULD LEAVE US WITH ONLY ONE SQUADRON OF
F-5A'S FOR TRAINING WHILE CONTINUING THE PROCESS OF
STANDARDIZING OUR AIR FORCE ON THE F5E TYPE. BEYOND
THAT, WE SEEK YOUR PERMISSION TO SUPPLY THE 36 106MM
RECOILESS RIFLES WHICH MOROCCO REQUIRES.
UNFORTUNATELY, THERE IS LITTLE ELSE WE CAN SPARE
AT THIS POINT, AS MOST OF THE OTHER REQUIRED ITEMS
ON THE MOROCCAN LIST ARE EITHER UNAVAILABLE TO US,
OR BARELY SO. I SHALL BE IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH
HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY WHILE AWAITING YOUR RESPONSE.
AND IF IT IS FAVORABLE WE WILL WISH TO DETERMINE
WITH YOU THE BEST WAY OF CONVEYING ALL OF THESE
WEAPONS TO MOROCCO AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME.
I INTEND ALSO TO ADVISE OUR SAUDI BRETHREN ON
THESE DEVELOPMENTS AND I HOPE THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT
CAN HELP US ALL IN CARRYING THE LOAD TO MEET
THE MOROCCAN REQUIREMENTS.
WITH MY RESPECTS, REGARDS AND BEST WISHES TO
THE PRESIDENT AND YOUR GOOD SELF, SINCERELY,
HUSSEIN I. END TEST

2. RECOMMEND DEPT REPEAT TO RABAT AND TEHRAN.

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PICKERING

SECRET

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